

A NEW EDITION.

A
SHORT LETTER
TO

COLONEL LENOX,

ON HIS CONDUCT TOWARDS

THE DUKE OF YORK.

BY AN OFFICER OF THE ARMY.

He was a Man
Of an unbounded Stomach, ever ranking
Himself with Princes.

HENRY THE EIGHTH.

L O N D O N :

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THE DUKE OF YORK

BY AN OFFICER OF THE ARMY

IN TWO VOLUMES
OF THE HISTORY OF THE
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LONDON

PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAULS CHURCH-YARD

A LETTER, &c.

WHEN an individual presumes to quit that station which the manners and customs of a country has assigned him, to rank himself with Princes, and claim an equality with Royalty, it then becomes the public to examine the nature of his pretensions. He has wantonly renounced the veil of privacy, and every person is at liberty to consider how far his conduct can be vindicated, or his presumption palliated

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by the concurring circumstances of family connections, personal merit, or professional situation.

The late language, behaviour, and appeal of Colonel Lennox, have all contributed to subject him to this inquiry ; nor can he, after assiduously courting the geneneral attention, be displeased to find he has engaged it. Events trifling and insignificant in themselves, become important and interesting according to the quality of the persons they affect ; and the nephew and heir apparent to the Duke of Richmond, may well expect some share of that public observation which for successive years has been so largely diverted towards his uncle

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The flattering expectation of an elevated title, accompanied by an affluent fortune, may naturally inflame the inexperienced vanity of youth ; and though I am not *inclined to believe* that any personal expostulation would be attended with *danger*, yet I have chosen this mode as the most open to remind you by, and on whom that title was bestowed, and in what manner that fortune has been acquired and increased.

There are, indeed, many illustrious families in this kingdom, who, long possessed of hereditary distinctions, cannot but contemplate the train of their ancestors with ardent and avowed satisfaction. They find them honourably enrolled in the records

of their country, defending the freedom of the subject, or maintaining the *just* prerogative of the Crown. They find them at the hazard of their fortunes, and not unfrequently at the expence of their lives, guarding the constitution equally against Royal encroachments, and popular fury. Such a descent may well inspire the ideas of unqualified dignity, or excite the emotions of unfulled honour. Those who have established the Throne by their valour, may be tempted to consider themselves as scarce inferior to it; and the recollection of the generous and martial spirit of their progenitors, will hardly suffer them to taint their own actions with meanness or cowardice.

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It was the boast of ancient Nobility, that their sons were brave, and their daughters were chaste;—con-
 scend to trace back the virtues of your
 ancestors, and you may judge how
 far the expression is applicable to
 your own race. But I will not call
 to remembrance the painful history
 of female frailty; repentant beauty
 must ever command our pity, and
 will at length even insure our esteem.
 Were the rest of the family consigned
 to oblivion, the virtues of your uncle
 would be sufficient to immortalize it.

The doubtful descendant of a wan-
 ton and luxurious Prince; the certain
 offspring of a rapacious and profligate
 prostitute, has revived the character
 of the ancient Thrafo; and while
 he

he is loud to menace—while he is ready to asperse, trembles to meet the man he has threatened, and support the injury he has offered.

The late General Clavering, early in life was distinguished by those characteristics which marked his conduct to the last hour of his existence; zealous of his honour, and tenacious of his integrity, his undaunted spirit was ever prompt to vindicate the first, as his disinterested prudence was vigilant to guard the last. When he was appointed one of the Supreme Council and Commander in Chief in Bengal, it pleased the Duke of Richmond to indulge his general strain of invective. The conquest of Guadalope was described with happy pleasantry; and the

the conduct of the officers on that expedition, were the objects of the noble speaker's satire and ridicule: the feelings of General Clavering, as a soldier and a man, were aroused; a direct disavowal, in the most explicit terms, was demanded through the channel of Lord Dorchester. Shame for a moment maintained an ineffectual struggle against fear. After a short pause, the required reparation was acquiesced in; and the words, uttered in the presence of hundreds, were retracted with a faint blush, and denied by a solemn declaration.

A submission, so degrading to the to the feelings of a man, so inconsistent with the dignity of a peer, one might naturally imagine would have rendered

rendered his Grace cautious in future; but the spirit of envious detraction was too predominant in his bosom to be checked by any thing but a sense of immediate danger.

An amiable young Nobleman scorning to indulge in the lap of peace, had devoted his talents to the toils and dangers of war. The country, however divided it might be in opinion respecting the cause he engaged in, unanimously acknowledged the ardor and manly virtue with which he supported the terror of *her* arms, and established the glory of *his* own name. The repeated perfidy of the enemy called for exemplary punishment, and an officer who had frequently broken his parole was,
by

by Lord Rawdon, consigned to merited execution. The *absence* of that nobleman inflamed the *courage* and indignation of the Duke of Richmond. He was exposed to the chance of war; he might possibly never return; and his Grace hesitated not in the House of Lords, to arraign the execution of Colonel Haynes in the most gross and opprobrious terms. Lord Rawdon did return; with the approbation and applause of his fellow-soldiers and countrymen. He instantly flew to vindicate his character, and justify his conduct. It was not an *explanation* of his Grace's expressions that he demanded; but he *compelled* him to the most derogatory and humiliating *submission*. Abject cowardice is the ge-

neral companion of unqualified infolence; and his Grace was once more called upon the stage as a public example, to inform us of that an *arrogant* disposition cannot be more ready to offer an insult, than it may be induced, by *proper application*, to atone by the most submissive reparation.

Such, Sir, has been the delicate sense of honor; such the magnanimous conduct of the man whose title you hope to inherit; and the mean and fordid practices by which the present Duke* has aggrandized his

* A few years since a celebrated Painter was engaged by a noble Duke to draw his Grace's stud, in Suffex; when the artist had finished his engagement, he was called upon to deliver a bill;
and

his fortune, are only to be equalled by the avarice and rapacity of his congenial predecessor.

Small, therefore, can be your claim from family connections ; and when your personal merit is considered, it will be found, I doubt, to add but little strength to the importance you have assumed. The abilities of Mr. Busby, either to form the mind or manners, are acknowledged with pleasure by his friends and acquaintance, but they have ever lamented that those abilities were devoted to

and his Grace, with consistent prudence, was pleased to produce and insist on a *set off* for the amount of his board during the time he had remained at his seat. This is a fact well known in the neighbourhood of Chichester.

the ungrateful task of admonishing petulant folly, or the vain effort of counteracting natural imbecility.

It may, indeed, be matter of triumph, that without reputation, without experience, but not without interest, you have stepped from the rank of Captain in the Thirty-fifth Regiment, to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Guards. I leave the world to decide how far this partial promotion can be relished by the Officers of the Coldstream; and it may with the same facility determine how far it has been proportioned to the merit of a man, whose peaceable services were confined to the narrow limits of less than four years. The prudent foresight of his Grace has been repeatedly

peatedly experienced ; by his interest, Colonel Jones, to the prejudice of a deserving officer, was early and individually obtruded upon this corps. Hull presented a safe haven ; and the grateful Colonel could do no less than embrace the first lucrative opportunity, to step aside and make room for the nephew of his patron.

The manner in which you was thus introduced into the Coldstream, without the concurrence, or even the previous knowledge of the Duke of York, must have been highly injurious to his feelings. The most dependant Colonel in the service is allowed some share in the nomination of his officers ; to deny this compliment to the Son of the Sovereign, was reserved
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for the happy *moderation* of the present Administration. But his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, considering you rather as the instrument, than the author of this insult, continued to extend to you his countenance, and suffered you to share the festive enjoyments of his convivial hours.

Whatever were your party principles, you could not be ignorant how obnoxious the Minister had rendered himself to this illustrious personage. Insensible to the distress of his Royal Highness's situation, in his early embarrassments, he had endeavoured to intercept from him the generous intentions of the people; he was suspected of having estranged from him
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the affections of his Father, and the esteem of his King ; he had avowedly placed himself in open opposition to his pretensions and expectations ; and had attempted to confound the Heir Apparent to the Crown, with the meanest of his future subjects. To have borne these repeated indignities without resentment — to have suffered these accumulated injuries to pass without some mark of displeasure or indignation, would have argued a want of spirit unworthy a gentleman, and unbecoming a Prince. Your situation allowed you not to be ignorant of the sentiments of his Royal Highness ; yet you presumed, in the minute of unguarded familiarity, to propose, in the presence of the Prince of Wales, the health of the
man

man you knew to be most obnoxious to him. A momentary effusion of pardonable warmth, was succeeded by a just and permanent contempt. Your ignorance and insolence was pitied and despised ; and you was permitted to retire with impunity, and almost without observation.

To a private gentleman, I am convinced the indignity would never have been offered ; but you was not *indifferent* to the vanity of braving a Prince ; you was not *insensible* to the security with which it could be affected.

One might have imagined you would have been satisfied with this single gratification of an *indecent* and
turbulent

turbulent pride, but a perseverance in similar conduct, a daily and boastful repetition of disrespectful language produced the rebuke from Colonel St. L——, which you had too much prudence to *seem* to perceive, because you had too little spirit to venture to *resent*.

The pointed *admonition* was circulated through the polite circles, and with it, the more pointed comment of your superior Officer. He indeed was astonished at the contrasted proofs of unwarrantable insolence, and pusillanimous forbearance. His remarks were delivered in public, and soon reported by a certain tale-bearing Lord, late the undiscerning

D. patron

patron of harmony, but now the successful promoter of discord.

Your situation was thus become critical; the contempt of the world was closing fast upon you, and impending infamy was only to be avoided by some determined and decisive measure. The most natural was, to have sought reparation from that Gentleman whose expressions had first wounded your reputation, or rather developed to the world your real character, and hereditary disposition. But this method of proceeding would have been attended with no small danger. The courage of Colonel St. L—— has always been universally acknowledged, and *his* situation

tuation allowed *him* to grant any satisfaction which *your nice sense* of honour could possibly require. The rash suggestion was therefore instantly rejected, and you resolved to adopt a plan, which you flattered yourself would establish your fame, while you confided in the idea that it never could endanger your person.

The Royal descent of your Commanding Officer, scarce permitted him to wave the distinction of birth, and place himself on a level with a common subject. His high and particular military situation might equally deter him from meeting in the field an inferior Officer of his own regiment, and under his immediate command. You determined to expof-

tulate, when you thought you would not be permitted to fight.

You chose your time and place for this expostulation with *consistent precaution*; could any time or place be so likely to produce interference, as the very parade, and moment, where and when the Duke of York was exercising the regiment *he* commanded, and *you* belonged to? You was immediately ordered to your post; but when the duty of the morning was over, his Royal Highness condescended to listen to your *complaints*. The expression, which he considered it disgraceful for you to have passed without proper explanation, you was informed was made use of at D'Aubigny's;

ny's; but with a manly resolution, he refused to particularize the words, or the person, who originally had given the *reprimand*. He added, for his own remarks he was willing to hold himself accountable; that he wished to be considered as a private gentleman; and when not on duty, that he wore a brown coat. Your disappointment was excessive; your confusion was visible.

The firm and manly language of his Royal Highness, destroyed the very foundation on which the expostulation had been built. You had gone too far, directly to retract; but you still wished to evade. You thought proper to address a circular and curious

rious letter* to every member of
D'Aubigny's, and expected that they
should

* *Richmond-house, May, 18, 1789.*

SIR,

A report having been spread, that the Duke of York had said, "Some words had been made use of to me in a political conversation, that no gentleman ought to submit to"---I, on the first opportunity, spoke to his Royal Highness before the Officers of the Coldstream regiment, to which I have the honour to belong. His answer was, "That he had heard them said to me at D'Aubigny's," but positively refused to tell me the expression, or the person who had used it. In this situation, being perfectly ignorant what his Royal Highness can allude to, and not being aware that any such expression ever passed, I cannot find any better mode of clearing up this matter, than by writing a letter to every member of D'Aubigny's Club, desiring each of them to let me know if he can recollect any expression to have been used in his presence, which could bear the construction put upon it by his Royal Highness; and in such case, by whom the expression was used. If any such expression should occur to your memory, (as
you

should have treasured up with care and retention, words, which as they only imported yourself, ought to have been most strongly imprinted on your own recollection. The answers you received were short, but not inexpressive of the sentiments of those who wrote them. The terms in which they were couched, allowed no improper opportunity for you to efface the suspicions entertained of your courage, by a rencontre with those who were your equals, but you

you must be conscious of the disagreeable situation in which I am placed,) I trust and hope you will take the earliest opportunity of stating it to me. If no such expressions occurs to your memory, I would not give you the trouble of an answer, which I should else hope to receive before this day se'nnight.

still

still persevered in your application to the Duke of York.

The alacrity shewn by his Royal Highness, was far from being agreeable to your *prudent* intentions ; yet a difference of this nature might be reported to the King, and produce the interposition of that Royal authority you *seem* so much to have wished for. Some praise must be ascribed to your policy, which to promote so desirable an event, selected for your Second, the domestic servant of your Sovereign ; but here again you was unfortunately disappointed. Duty, decency, and propriety, all suggested to Lord Winchelsea, the line of conduct he ought to have observed. Duty, decency, and propriety, were
overborne

overborne by the voice of vanity. Your's would be the danger; but some degree of *presumptuous* fame would be annexed to the man who carried the challenge, and attended you to the field as a Second, against the son of *your* Sovereign, and *his* master. The invitation was accepted. The circumstances of the meeting are before the public*. The gallantry
of

* To preclude the unfounded representations which may be propagated respecting the affair that took place this day, the Seconds think it necessary to give the following authenticated account:————

In consequence of a dispute already known to the public, His Royal Highness the Duke of York, attended by Lord Rawdon,---and Lieut. Colonel Lenox, accompanied by the Earl of Winchelsea, met at Wimbledon Common. The ground was measured at twelve paces; and both parties were to fire upon a signal agreed upon. The signal being
E given,

of the Duke of York cannot be too much commended. But whether we consider Colonel Lenox's *pretended* ignorance

given, Lieut. Col. Lenox fired, and the ball grazed his Royal Highnesses' curl. The Duke of York did not fire. Lord Rawdon then interfered, and said, "That he thought enough had been done." Lieut. Col. Lenox observed, "That his Royal Highness had not fired." Lord Rawdon said, "It was not the Duke's intention to fire. His Royal Highness had come out upon Lieut. Col. Lenox's desire to give him satisfaction, and had no animosity against him." Lieut. Col. Lenox pressed that the Duke of York should fire, which was declined, upon a repetition of the reason. Lord Winchelsea "then went up to the Duke of York, and expressed his hope that his R. H. could have no objection to say, he considered Lieut. Col. Lenox, as a man of honour and courage;" His R. H. replied, "that he should say nothing; he had come out to give Lieut. Col. Lenox satisfaction, and did not mean to fire at him; if Lieut. Col. Lenox was not satisfied, he might fire again." Lieut. Col. Lenox said, "he could not possibly
" fire

ignorance of, and patient acquiescence under, the sarcasm of Col. St. L——: the suspicious manner in which he obtruded himself on the notice of Royalty; and his quitting at last the field without explanation or apology, we may pronounce with so congenial a nephew to inherit his title, the *amiable qualities* of the present Duke of Richmond, will not at his decease, be consign'd to oblivion; but we are yet to learn how long it

“ fire again at the Duke, as his Royal Highness
“ did not mean to fire at him.”

On this, both parties left the ground. The Seconds think it proper to add, that both parties behaved with the most perfect coolness and intrepidity.

(Signed)

WINCHELSEA.
RAWDON.

Tuesday Evening, May 26, 1789.

will

will be thought decent to continue as
a Lord of the Bedchamber, the man
who abetted an attempt on the life of
the son of his Master and his King.

F I N I S.

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